

Remarks:

This Amendment and the accompanying Request for Continued Examination are being filed responsive to the August 8, 2005 final Office action that was issued in connection with the above-identified patent application. A subsequent Amendment was filed on October 5, 2005, but was not entered (as indicated in an Advisory Action dated October 21, 2005). The specification and claims thus remain as they were prior to the August 8, 2005 final Office action.

First considering formal matters, applicants note that the specification was previously objected to because it contains an embedded hyperlink and/or other form of browser-executable code. Applicants have amended the specification to delete the embedded hyperlink and have replaced the URLs as recommended by the Examiner. Applicants previously submitted this amendment in applicants' October 5, 2005 Amendment (which was not entered pursuant to the October 21, 2005 Advisory Action). In the October 21, 2005 Advisory Action, the Examiner indicated that such amendment was sufficient to overcome the objection to the specification. Applicants thus request withdrawal of the objections to the specification.

Turning now to the claims, applicants note that claims 1, 3-27 and 30-44 previously were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph. Claims 1, 14, 23 and 37 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. In particular, the Examiner alleged that applicants teach "one or more" in the specification, but do not adequately describe "two or more" in the specification. Applicants respectfully disagree for at least the reasons set forth in applicants' October 5, 2005 Amendment (which was not entered pursuant to the October 21, 2005 Advisory Action).

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First, the phrase is supported, at least inherently, by portions of the specification that discusses the consolidation features of the disclosed systems and methods. For example, pages 15-16 of the specification states:

Optionally, the centralized server can deliver a "CONSOLIDATED PRINTER E-MAIL" to the PC. Furthermore, the centralized server can deliver a "TONER LOW E-MAIL" to the PC. Accordingly, the centralized server with the Peripheral Management System is operative to consolidate the maintenance status of each printer, consolidate the status of supplies for each printer, and deliver toner low messages to the maintainer via the PC.

"Consolidate," as defined by Webster's New Twentieth Century Dictionary of the English Language (Unabridged Second Edition), means to "unite (various units) into one mass or body." Thus, to "consolidate" there must be two or more units to consolidate into a single mass, such as consolidating the need to order consumables for a select group of computer peripheral devices from among the plurality of computer peripheral devices into a single message. Therefore, the phrase "when two or more from the select group have the need to replenish the consumable component" is supported by the portions of the specification that discusses the consolidation features of the disclosed systems and methods.

Second, the phrase is supported, at least inherently, by portions of the specification that refer to one or more of the printers. For example, page 15 of the specification states:

From the perspective of a maintainer, there are two possible ways to retrieve a consolidated maintenance status for one or more of the printers within an office network environment.

"Two or more printers" is merely a subset of "one or more printers." Thus, the phrase "when two or more from the select group have the need to replenish the

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consumable component" is supported by the portions of the specification that refer to the "or more" of the one or more.

Applicants previously made these arguments in applicants' October 5, 2005 Amendment (which was not entered pursuant to the October 21, 2005 Advisory Action). In the October 21, 2005 Advisory Action, the Examiner indicated that such arguments were sufficient to overcome the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112. Applicants thus request withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112.

Turning now to the merits, claims 1, 3-27 and 30-44 stand rejected variously under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) and 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) based on Fan et al. (US Patent No. 6,310,692), LoBlondo et al. (US Patent No. 5,305,199), Yanagidaira (US Patent No. 6,490,052) and Silva et al. (U.S. Publication No. 2001/0034658). Applicants respectfully disagree for at least the reasons set forth in applicants' October 5, 2005 Amendment (which was not entered pursuant to the October 21, 2005 Advisory Action).

Although the October 5, 2005 Amendment was not entered (pursuant to the October 21, 2005 Advisory Action), the Examiner has acknowledged that the cited art does not teach consolidating the needs of two or more peripheral devices with two or more needs to replenish each. Although applicants believe that the claims (as they stood prior to this Amendment) did distinguish the cited art, the claims are herein amended to make this more clear. In particular, claims 1, 14, 23 and 37 are each amended to recite a message that "consolidates the need to order consumables for a select group of computer peripheral devices from among the plurality of computer peripheral devices when two or more computer peripheral devices from the select group of computer peripheral devices have the need to


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replenish consumables." In a November 8, 2005 telephone conference with the undersigned attorney for applicants, the Examiner acknowledged that such amendments would overcome the cited art. Applicants thus respectfully request that the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) and 35 U.S.C. § 103 be withdrawn.

Applicants believe that this application is now in condition for allowance, in view of the above amendments and remarks. Accordingly, applicants respectfully request that the Examiner Issue a Notice of Allowability covering the pending claims. If the Examiner has any questions, or if a telephone interview would in any way advance prosecution of the application, please contact the undersigned attorney of record.

Respectfully submitted,

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CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to Examiner B. Bruckart, Group Art Unit 2155, Assistant Commissioner for Patents, at facsimile number (571) 273-8300 on November 8, 2005.



Christie A. Doolittle

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